# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

# COMPILATION OF 20 SONIC AND DENSITY LOGS FROM 12 OIL TEST WELLS ALONG LARSE LINES 1 AND 2, LOS ANGELES REGION, CALIFORNIA

By

Thomas M. Brocher<sup>1</sup>, April L. Ruebel<sup>1</sup>, Thomas L. Wright<sup>2</sup>, and David A. Okaya<sup>3</sup>

Open-File Report 98-366

This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards or with the North American Stratigraphic Code. Any use of trade, product or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, 345 Middlefield Road, M/S 977, Menlo Park, CA 94025 <sup>2</sup>136 Jordan Ave., San Anselmo, CA 94960 <sup>3</sup>Dept. Earth Sciences, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0740

#### **ABSTRACT**

Three-dimensional velocity models for the Los Angeles area provide a means for better understanding the spatial distribution of strong ground motions recorded during earthquakes in southern California. To help constrain such velocity models, deep-crustal wide-angle seismic profiles across the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles basin were obtained during the Los Angeles Region Seismic Experiment (LARSE).

We have compiled 20 sonic and density logs from 12 oil test wells in the Los Angeles basin and San Fernando Valley to better allow us to determine the geometry and physical properties of these Cenozoic basins along LARSE Lines 1 and 2. The test wells are between 1.2 and 4.3 km deep. Five wells are located in the San Fernando Valley, three wells are located within the San Gabriel Valley, and the remaining four wells are located within the Los Angeles basin between the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults. These well logs sample Quaternary to Oligocene sedimentary rocks (principally the Plio-Pleistocene freshwater sands, Saugus, Pico, Repetto, Modelo, Puente, and Topanga Formations), and bottom in variety of sedimentary, volcanic, igneous and metamorphic rocks. This report provides plots showing the density, sonic velocities, and calculated two-way travel times as a function of depth for each well log, and summarizes the linear regression of the data to better understand the velocities and densities of Cenozoic sedimentary rocks in the Los Angeles area.

The three wells from the San Gabriel Valley exhibit a prominent reversal in sonic velocity associated with the contact between non-marine mainly Pleistocene sands and older marine sedimentary rocks at well depths between 1.2 and 1.75 km. Sonic velocities within the overlying non-marine mainly Pleistocene sands and gravels show considerable scatter. In contrast, the underlying marine sedimentary rocks show little scatter in sonic velocity and are as much as 1 km/s slower than the overlying mainly Pleistocene freshwater sands. Evidence for a comparable reversal in sonic velocity at this contact is lacking at the Murphy-Whittier #304 well near the Whittier Fault, and at the Northam Station Corehole #1 well along the Anaheim Nose. A well lying several km northeast of the Newport-Inglewood fault (Hazard #1), exhibits a reversal in sonic velocity in the thin (0.15 km) section of upper Miocene Mohnian stage rocks sampled in the well. A thinner, less prominent sonic low-velocity zone is also observed in the San Fernando Valley.

Surficial compressional-wave velocities inferred by linear projection of regression lines fit to the sonic velocity data fall between 1.8 and 2.4 km/s, with average vertical velocity gradients ranging between 0.59 and 0.79 km/s/km.

These well data suggest that a prominent P- and S-wave low-velocity zone within the Cenozoic basin fill underlies the entire San Gabriel Valley and possibly the margins of the Los Angeles basin. This low-velocity zone should produce large-amplitude guided and converted arrivals at low frequencies (1 to 2 Hz). Thus mapping its extent from other well logs in the Los Angeles basin may allow us to better understand the spatial distribution of strong ground motions in the Los Angeles area.

# **CONTENTS**

Abstract Introduction Borehole Stratigraphy Well Log Analysis Interpretation of Well Log Data Discussion Data Availability Summary Acknowledgments References Abbreviations Used in Table 1	1 4 4 6 8 11 13 13 14 14 15
TABLE	
<ul> <li>Table 1. Oil test well locations and drilling data</li> <li>Table 2. Stratigraphy in the oil test wells in the Los Angeles basin</li> <li>Table 3. Regression of sonic velocities in oil test wells in the San Gabriel Valley</li> <li>Table 4. Regression of sonic velocities in oil test wells in the Los Angeles basin</li> </ul>	16 17 20 20
FIGURES	
Figure 1. Map showing locations of oil test wells analyzed within this report and the base of the Repetto Formation (circa 4.5 Ma)  Figure 2. Map showing locations of oil test wells analyzed within this report and the base of the Mohnian Stage (circa 14 Ma)	21 22
Figure 3. Sonic velocities for Consolidated Rock Products #1/Standard Oil Calif. Figure 4. Sonic velocities for Live Oak Park Corehole #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 5. Sonic velocities for Ferris #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 6. Sonic velocities for Murphy Whittier #304/Chevron USA Inc. Figure 7. Sonic velocities for Northam Station Corehole #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 8. Sonic velocities for Kellogg #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 9. Sonic velocities for Hazard #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 10. Sonic velocities for Burnet #1 and #2/Chevron USA Inc. Figure 11. Sonic velocities for Frieda J. Clark #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 12. Sonic velocities for Leadwell #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 13. Sonic velocities for Hazeltine #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
Figure 14. Densities for Ferris #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 15. Densities for Murphy Whittier #304/Chevron USA Inc. Figure 16. Densities for Northam Station Corehole #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 17. Densities for Burnet #1/Chevron USA Inc. Figure 18. Densities for Burnet #2/Chevron USA Inc. Figure 19. Densities for Frieda J. Clark #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 20. Densities for Leadwell #1/Standard Oil of Calif. Figure 21. Densities for Hazeltine #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Figure 22.	Synthetic seismograms for wells in the San Fernando Valley	42
Figure 23.	Time-depth curves for Consolidated Rock Products #1/Standard Oil Calif.	43
Figure 24.	Time-depth curves for Live Oak Park Corehole #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	44
Figure 25.	Time-depth curves for Ferris #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	45
Figure 26.	Time-depth curves for Murphy Whittier #304/Chevron USA Inc.	46
Figure 27.	Time-depth curves for Northam Station Corehole #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	47
Figure 28.	Time-depth curves for Kellogg #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	48
Figure 29.	Time-depth curves for Hazard #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	49
Figure 30.	Time-depth curves for Burnet #1 and #2/Chevron USA Inc.	50
Figure 31.	Time-depth curves for Frieda J. Clark #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	51
Figure 32.	Time-depth curves for Leadwell #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	52
Figure 33.	Time-depth curves for Hazeltine #1/Standard Oil of Calif.	53

### INTRODUCTION

We present data from 20 sonic and density logs from 12 oil test wells in the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, and the Los Angeles basin to help develop a three-dimensional velocity model for the Los Angeles area (Figs. 1 and 2). These 3-D models will be used to calculate synthetic seismograms to improve understanding of strong ground motions in the Los Angeles region [e.g., Magistrale and others, 1996; Hauksson and others, 1997]. The well log data also supplement deep-crustal wide-angle seismic data recorded during the Los Angeles Region Seismic Experiment (LARSE) in October, 1994 [Brocher and others, 1995; Fuis and others, 1996; Murphy and others, 1996; ten Brink and others, 1996].

The locations, elevations, and depths of the oil test wells, as well as the lease name, well number, operator, and completion year are presented in Table 1. In this table, the wells are ordered by latitude from north to south for the wells in San Fernando Valley and similarly for the wells in the San Gabriel Valley and the Los Angeles basin. This information is taken without verification from the Well History Control System (WHCS) One-line File, an on-line digital well-log database leased from Petroleum Information by the USGS Office of Energy Resources at Denver. Table 1 also indicates which of these wells were deviated. Because the logs were run over a 29-year interval between 1962 and 1991, Table 1 provides information on the type of sonic and density tool used to make the log, as well as the other tools run simultaneously (normally caliper, spontaneous potential, and gamma-ray). Several of the sonic logs were made with older tools, with relatively short-spacings between the source and receivers.

### **BOREHOLE STRATIGRAPHY**

Table 2 provides information on the stratigraphy encountered in the boreholes, mainly based on micro and macro biostratigraphy, electric-log correlations, and radiometric dating of ash falls. Age control is available for all of the wells. The following summary of the stratigraphy of the Los Angeles basin is largely derived from Yerkes and others [1965], Blake [1991], and Wright [1991]. Broadly speaking, the middle Miocene to the lower Pleistocene was a time of basin

subsidence and deposition of marine clastic sedimentary rocks followed by a subsequent period of middle Pleistocene to Recent uplift and deposition of non-marine sediments.

As summarized by Yerkes and others [1965], stratigraphic columns in the vicinity of Whittier Narrows show nonmarine sand and gravel, Pleistocene (?) marine sand and silt, the upper Pliocene Pico Formation (a marine sandstone and siltstone, with minor lenses of conglomerate), the lower Pliocene Repetto Formation (a marine coarse-grained sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate), and the middle-to-upper Miocene Puente Formation (a marine sandstone, siltstone, and shale with minor lenses of conglomerate). In the vicinity of the Long Beach oil field, the upper Pico Formation consists of marine siltstones and sandstones, the middle and lower Pico Formation contains marine sandstones and interbedded siltstones, and the lower Pliocene Repetto Formation consists of petroliferous marine sandstones, minor siltstones, and shales [Yerkes and others, 1965].

In the western Puente Hills area, the Soquel Member of the Puente Formation is a coarse-grained to gritty sandstone with interbedded siltstone. The lower-to-middle Miocene Topanga Formation consists of marine sandstone and siltstone [Yerkes and others, 1965]. The underlying Vaqueros and Sespe Formations, of late Eocene to early Miocene age, consist chiefly of nonmarine clastic sedimentary rocks (sandstones and minor conglomerates) [Yerkes and others, 1965; Blake, 1991].

Blake [1991] has reviewed the stratigraphic nomenclature in the Los Angeles basin and related the local foraminiferal stages to worldwide chronostratigraphic zonation. That zonation shows that most of the lower Mohnian stage, and most of the lower member of the Puente formation, is of middle Miocene age. It also shows that the "Delmontian" stage, considered the uppermost Miocene interval in the Los Angeles basin, actually extends into early Pliocene time. The nodular shale intersected in the Hazard #1 well occurs at the base of the Puente Formation [Blake, 1991].

Middle Miocene rocks of the Luisian stage contain a wide-spread volcanic sequence at their base [Yerkes and others, 1965]. These volcanics are overlain by organic-rich marine clastic rocks and a locally unique schist breccia.

At the Anaheim Nose the middle Miocene Topanga Formation is composed of marine siltstone, sandstone, and conglomerate. The underlying Vaqueros-Sespe Formation undifferentiated, consists of interbedded marine and non-marine clastic sedimentary rocks [Yerkes and others, 1965].

The four wells in San Fernando Valley all sample the Saugus (Sunshine Ranch Member), Pico, Towsley, and Modelo Formations (Table 2). These formations, as exposed in the Santa Susana Mountains, were described by Winterer and Durham [1958]. The Modelo Formation is chiefly siltstone of Luisian and Mohnian stage (middle and late Miocene). The Towsley Formation is composed primarily of sandstones, conglomerates, and mudstones of late Miocene and early Pliocene age. The Pico Formation consists of marine siltstones, sandstones, and conglomerates of Pliocene age. The Sunshine Ranch member of the Saugus Formation interfingering marine, brackish-water, and nonmarine sedimentary rocks. The member consists chiefly of siltstones and sandstones of late Pliocene to early Pleistocene age [Winterer and Durham, 1958; Saul, 1975]. Three of the San Fernando Valley wells sample the Topanga Formation as well. In the Santa Susana Mountains the Topanga Formation consists of sandstones and shales of middle Miocene age [Saul, 1975]. The Leadwell #1 and Hazeltine Core Hole #1 bottomed in quartzdioritic and granitic basement rocks, respectively.

### WELL LOG ANALYSIS

Sonic and density logs from the five wells in San Fernando Valley were commercially digitized at 0.5 foot (0.152 m) intervals. For the sonic log from the Burnet #1 well, we corrected the digitized transit times by subtracting 100 µs/ft from them in order to eliminate a large offset in the sonic velocity between the digitized logs from Burnet #1 and #2 at depth of 700 m. Prior to this correction, the sonic velocities calculated from the Burnet #1 sonic log were generally less than

1500 m/s. For the Hazeltine #1 and Leadwell #1 density logs, the quantity digitized is the scintillometer counts/second. There is no ready conversion from counts/sec to g/cm³ (L. Beyer, pers. comm., 1998). None of the commercially digitized well logs have been edited to remove anomalous values probably associated with washouts, thick mudcake, or invasion of drill fluids.

Sonic and density logs for the remaining wells were hand digitized at non-uniform intervals between 3 and 30 m to capture the significant variations of the logs with depth for frequencies up to 2 Hz. The sampling interval was adequate to estimate linear trends in the data over these intervals. We note that this sampling interval is not sufficiently dense for the calculation of high-frequency (say >10 Hz) synthetic seismograms. For higher-frequency synthetics, it would be necessary to redigitize the logs with a finer sampling interval.

For the sonic logs, we picked transit times as a function of depth down the well. For the gamma-gamma density logs, we picked bulk density in  $g/cm^3$  as a function of depth down the well. For the neutron density porosity logs, we converted the logged density porosity ( $\phi$ ) back to formation density ( $\rho_{fd}$ ) using  $\rho_{fd} = \rho_m + (\rho_f - \rho_m)\phi$ , where the matrix density  $\rho_m = 2.65 \ g/cm^3$ , and the fluid density  $\rho_f = 1.0 \ g/cm^3$  [Ellis, 1987]. All logs presented here were digitized from analog records recorded at a scale of 30.49 m = 5 cm (100 feet = 2 inches). Well depths are measured from an arbitrary reference datum on the drilling platform, usually located about 3.65 m (12 feet) above ground level. The downhole depths reported here have not been corrected to the ground level datum. Cased intervals of the wells and sections identified on the logs as having cycle skipping problems were not digitized. In some cases data from the logs were ignored; these data were associated with washouts, thick mudcake, invasion of drill fluids or large deviations from the general trend of density and sonic values that generally have less than 10 meters depth extent [Ellis, 1987].

The digitized sonic-log data were converted from transit times to velocities (m/s) and both the sonic- and density-logs depths were converted from feet to meters. Figures 3 through 21 show seismic velocities and densities as a function of depth for each well. Although we digitized all

repeated passes of tools in sections of the wells, we do not show these redundant passes in Figures 3 to 21.

Figure 22 presents synthetic seismograms calculated from the well log data from the wells in the San Fernando Valley. Both the sonic and density logs were used to calculate these synthetic seismograms using a convolutional model of the reflection coefficient series with the source wavelet. Neither multiple reflections nor transmission attenuation effects were included in these synthetics. The source wavelet was selected to match that of seismic reflection profiles located near these wells and consisted of a 8 to 36 Hz Ricker wavelet. Note that the amplitudes of the synthetic seismograms for the Leadwell #1 and Hazeltine Core Hole #1 wells are incorrect, since the density logs for these wells are in scintillometer counts/sec.

Figures 23 to 33 present two-way time-depth curves calculated from the interval velocities digitized from the logs. These curves are included to provide guidance for the interpretation of seismic reflection data in the vicinity of the boreholes.

We caution that we have not attempted to independently verify the accuracy of the data that are presented here in digital form. In commercial, open-hole geophysical well logging, there are many sources of possible errors. Such independent data could be bulk density measurements for the density logs and (downhole) seismic check-shot surveys for the sonic logs. Thus, we have not yet determined the absolute or even relative accuracy of these digital data. On the other hand, the general similarities between wells from the same basins, suggests that the general conclusion reached here, that there is a velocity and density reversal with depth (associated with the upper Miocene, fine-grain marine sandstones, siltstones, and shales), is correct.

Finally, we emphasize that plots of the deviated wells indicated in Tables 1 and 2 do not show vertical depth but instead show drilled or inhole depth. Table 2 provides the data necessary to make the correction from drilled or inhole depth to vertical depth.

# INTERPRETATION OF WELL LOG DATA

# San Gabriel Valley

Logs from all three wells in the San Gabriel Valley display reversals of sonic velocity and density. The most prominent reversal in sonic velocity and density occurs at the Ferris #1 well, beginning at a well depth of 1.75 km, where the compressional wave velocity (Vp) drops almost 1 km/s and density drops nearly 0.2 g/cm³ (Fig. 5). The section exhibiting low sonic velocity and density is approximately 0.8 km thick. The sonic log from the adjacent Live Oak Park Corehole #1, located 3.5 km northwest of the Ferris #1 well, shows a reversal in sonic velocity at a depth of 1.27 km (Fig. 4). The sonic log from the Consolidated Rocks Product #1 well, 10 km northeast of the Ferris and Live Oak Park Corehole wells, has two reversals, a short one at 1.0 km depth, and a thicker reversal that starts at 1.5 km depth (Fig. 3).

Based on the formations sampled in the boreholes (Table 2), the observed reversal of sonic velocity and density in the San Gabriel Valley occurs at or near the contact between the poorly-sorted freshwater sands and gravels near the base of the Pleistocene and the underlying marine clay-rich sedimentary rocks of early Pleistocene to middle Miocene age [Yerkes and others, 1965; Wright, 1991]. This unconformity is best developed in the northern Los Angeles basin region. The lower scatter of velocity and density measurements in the upper marine section is evidence for the relatively homogenous lithology of this unit, and distinctly constrasts with the higher scatter in sonic velocities and densities measured in the overlying non-marine sedimentary rocks in these wells.

# Los Angeles Basin

Logs from two wells in the Los Angeles basin display smaller reversals of sonic velocity and density. There is a small reversal in velocity at the Kellogg #1 well, at a depth of about 1020 m (Fig. 8). Above this level the sonic velocities show more scatter and slightly higher values than those beneath this level. The youngest Miocene rocks in the Hazard #1 well exhibit a minor reversal in sonic velocities (Fig. 9).

The Northam Station Core Hole #1, Kellogg #1, and Hazard #1 wells all sample thick sections of the middle to upper Pliocene Pico and Repetto Formations, and bottom in the Miocene? Topanga or Sespe Formations (Figs. 7 to 9). Sonic velocities measured within the Pico Formation show a well-defined vertical velocity gradient and less scatter than the sonic velocities in the underlying Repetto Formation.

# San Fernando Valley

All the sonic logs from the San Fernando Valley exhibit a thin, up to 200 m thick, low velocity zone at a well depth of about 800 m (corresponding to the Saugus, Pico, and Modelo Formations). This low velocity zone lowers the sonic velocity by as much as 0.5 km/s over adjacent portions of the wells. A minor density reversal in the same depth range is also apparent in the density logs for the Hazeltine #1, Leadwell #1, and Burnet #2 logs (Figs. 18, 20-21).

Sonic velocities at the base of both the Hazeltine #1 and Leadwell #1 wells in the San Fernando Valley both raise steeply to values in excess of 4 km/s (Figs. 12 and 13). These wells were documented to have penetrated crystalline basement, so that these relatively high velocities are estimates of the velocities of acoustic bedrock.

# Average Velocity Versus Depth Gradients

To estimate average compressional-wave velocity gradients for the Cenozoic sedimentary units in the Los Angeles area, we have performed linear regressions of the sonic velocities for the Plio-Pleistocene freshwater sands, the Pico and Repetto Formations, and Mohnian stage in the San Gabriel Valley and the Los Angeles basin (Tables 3 and 4). For each formation, three columns in Tables 3 and 4 display the resulting projected sonic velocity at the surface, the vertical sonic velocity gradient, the R<sup>2</sup> of the linear fit to the data, and depth interval for which the regression was performed. There is ample evidence in the literature that velocity versus depth relations in Cenozoic sedimentary basins become increasingly non-linear at shallowing depths. The upward

extension of linear regression lines therefore is only a first-approximation of the velocities of the surficial deposits.

#### DISCUSSION

We next discuss how these estimates of compressional wave velocities within the Cenozoic basins compare to a previous estimate. We then compare the borehole measurements made in the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles basin. Finally, we discuss how shear-wave velocities might be related to these sonic velocities.

# San Gabriel Valley

The average velocity versus depth relation within the Plio-Pleistocene freshwater sands from the three well logs in Table 3, Vp (km/s) = 2.09 + 0.9Z (Z in km), closely matches that of the k=238 velocity curve selected by Magistrale and others [1996] to depths of 2.5 km. The misfit between this average linear trend inferred from these sonic logs and the k=238 curve used by Magistrale and others [1996] is less than 0.5 km/s except near the surface. The larger misfit at the surface occurs where the k=238 curve is most non-linear and becomes asymptotic to lower velocities (1.2 km/s) than our linear projection of the well log data.

Similarly, linear regression of the sonic log data suggests that, with the exception of the Consolidated Rock Product (CRP) #1 well, velocities inferred from the well log data in the Mohnian stage and older rocks, are on average, only 0.2 to 0.3 km/s lower than the velocities predicted by the k=238 curve selected by Magistrale and others [1996] at depths between 2 and 5 km.

# Los Angeles Basin

Sonic velocities within the Pliocene Pico and Repetto Formations in the Los Angeles basin can be better approximated with a single linear velocity-depth curve than can the well logs from the San Gabriel Valley (Figs. 6 to 9; Table 4). Compared to well logs from the San Gabriel Valley,

linear regressions determined for the entire depth extent of the four sonic well logs in the Los Angeles Basin have (1) higher R<sup>2</sup> values (between 0.61 and 0.81), (2) similar projected surface velocities between 1.8 and 2.4 km/s, and (3) lower vertical velocity gradients between 0.59 and 0.70 km/s/km (Table 4). An average velocity curve based on these regressions, Vp (km/s) = 2.01 + 0.64Z (Z in km), lies about half-way between the k=238 and k=200 curves shown by Magistrale and others [1996].

# Implications for Shear-Wave Velocity Models

The most obvious and important result from our analysis of the sonic velocity logs is the pronounced low velocity zone at the base of the Plio-Pleistocene freshwater sands, at least within the San Gabriel Valley. Would one also expect these variations with depth to be present in shear wave velocity-depth profiles for these wells? Castagna and others [1985] compiled shear-wave velocity (Vs) and compressional-wave velocity (Vp) data from shear-wave and compressionalwave logging and other measurements to obtain Vp/Vs for a variety of clastic silicate rocks. Castagna and others [1985] suggest that Vp/Vs ratios in sandstones reach an average value near 1.7 beginning at depths of about 2 km, whereas the Vp/Vs in noncalcareous shales reach an average value of about 2 at depths near 3 km. Thus, from the published compilations of Vp/Vs ratios in Tertiary sedimentary rocks we would expect that the presence of a 20 to 25% reversal of sonic velocity and an 8 to 10% reversal in density at the Plio-Pleistocene freshwater/marine boundary in the San Gabriel Valley will be accompanied by a similar reversal in shear-wave velocity [Ohta and others, 1997; Hamilton, 1979; and Castagna and others, 1985]. Strong shear wave conversions, reflections, and guided waves are expected at this boundary, at least within the San Gabriel Valley. Existing three-dimensional velocity models for the Los Angeles basin do not incorporate a velocity reversal within the Cenozoic basin fill (e.g. Magistrale and others [1996] and Hauksson and others [1997]).

#### DATA AVAILABILITY

The picks of density, sonic velocity, and two-way travel times versus depth shown in Figures 3 to 21 and 23 to 33 are available in Excel5 spreadsheets using anonymous ftp. The anonymous ftp address is: andreas.wr.usgs.gov. Change the directory (cd) to /pub/outgoing/larse. The Excel5 files are named larse.sonic.xl5.bin, larse.tt.xl5.bin, and larse.density.xl5.bin, in Mac Binary II format. Due to the large size of the files for each of the digitized well logs from the San Fernando Valley, individual files for each of the sonic and density logging runs are provided. Table 1 of this report in Excel5 format is also in this ftp site, labeled as Table 1.bin. The text is in a Word 5 formatted file named OFR.text.bin. Figures 1 and 2 are in Adobe Illustrator 6 format in files OFR.Fig1 and OFR.Fig2.

#### **SUMMARY**

We compiled 20 sonic and density logs from 12 oil test wells in the Los Angeles region to better allow us to determine the geometry and physical properties of these Cenozoic basins in the Los Angeles area. The test wells are between 1.2 and 4.3 km deep. Five of the wells are located in the San Fernando Valley, three wells are located within the San Gabriel Valley, and the remaining four wells are located within the Los Angeles basin between the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults.

These well data suggest that a prominent P- and S-wave low-velocity zone within the Cenozoic basin fill underlies the entire San Gabriel Valley and possibly the northern margins of the Los Angeles basin. The three wells from the San Gabriel Valley exhibit a prominent reversal in sonic velocity associated with the contact between non-marine mainly Pleistocene sands and older marine sedimentary rocks. This low-velocity zone should produce large-amplitude guided and converted arrivals at low frequencies (1 to 2 Hz). Thus mapping its extent from other well logs in the region may allow us to better understand the spatial distribution of strong ground motions in the Los Angeles area.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Zenon Valin, USGS, kindly performed a search of a digital database providing well locations and other well information. Vicki Langenheim, USGS, drafted Figures 1 and 2. John Tinsley, USGS, guided us to references on the stratigraphy in the San Fernando Valley. Gary Fuis and Larry Beyer, both USGS, provided helpful comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

This work was supported by the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the

Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC).

### REFERENCES CITED

- Blake, G.H., 1991, Review of the Neogene biostratigraphy and stratigraphy of the Los Angeles basin and implications for basin evolution, in K.T. Biddle, ed., Active margin basins: AAPG Memoir 52, p. 135-184.
- Brocher, T.M., R.W. Clayton, K.D. Klitgord, R.G. Bohannon, R. Sliter, J.K. McRaney, J.V. Gardner, and J.B. Keene, 1995, Multichannel seismic-reflection profiling on the R/V Maurice Ewing during the Los Angeles Region Seismic Experiment (LARSE), California, U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 95-228, 73 pp.
- Castagna, J.P., Batzle, M.L., and Eastwood, R.L., 1985, Relationships between compressional-wave and shear-wave velocities in clastic silicate rocks, Geophysics, v. 50, p. 571-581.
- Crouch, J.S., and J. Suppe, 1993, Late Cenozoic tectonic evolution of the Los Angeles basin and inner California borderland: A model for core complex-like crustal extension, Geological Society of America, Bulletin, v. 105, p. 1415-1434.
- Davis, T.L. and J.S. Namson, 1994, A balanced cross-section of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, southern California, Nature, v. 372, p. 167-169.
- Ellis, D.V., 1987, Well Logging for Earth Scientists, Elsevier, New York, 532 p.
- Fuis, G.S., D.A. Okaya, R.W. Clayton, W.J. Lutter, T. Ryberg, T.M. Brocher, T. Henyey, M. Benthien, P.M. Davis, J. Mori, R.D. Catchings, U.S. ten Brink, M.D. Kohler, K.D. Klitgord, and R.G. Bohannon, 1996, Images of crust beneath Southern California will aid study of earthquakes and their effects, EOS, Trans. AGU, v. 77, p. 173, 176.
- Hamilton, E.L., 1979, Vp/Vs and Poisson's ratios in marine sediments and rocks, Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, v. 66, p. 1093-1101.
- Hauksson, E., and Haase, J.S., 1997, Three-dimensional Vp and Vp/Vs velocity models of the Los Angeles basin and central Transverse Ranges, California, J. Geophys. Res., v. 102, p. 5423-5453.
- Magistrale, H., McLaughlin, K., and Day, S., 1996, Geology-based 3-D velocity model of the Los Angeles basin sediments, Bull. Seism. Soc. Am., v. 86, p. 1161-1166.
- Murphy, J.M., Fuis, G.S., Rybert, T., Okaya, D.A., Criley, E.E., Benthien, M.L., Alvarez, M., Asudeh, I., Kohler, W.M., Glassmoyer, G.N., Robertson, M.C., and Bhowmik, J., 1996, Report for explosion data acquired in the 1994 Los Angeles region seismic experiment (LARSE), Los Angeles, California, U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 96-536, 120 pp.
- Ohta, Y., N. Goto, K. Shiono, H. Takahashi, F. Yamamizu, and S. Kurihara, 1977, Shear wave velocities in deep soil deposits; measurement in a borehole to the depth of 3500 meters and its significance, Jishin Gakkai (Seismological Society of Japan), v. 30, p. 415-433.
- Real, C.R., 1977, Seismicity and tectonics of the Santa Monica-Hollywood-Raymond Hill fault zone and northern Los Angeles basin, Los Angeles County, California, Transverse Ranges, U.S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 1339, p. 113-124.

- Saul, R.B., 1975, Geology of the southeast slope of the Santa Susana Mountains and geologic effects of the San Fernando earthquake, in Oakeshott, G.B., ed., San Fernando, California, earthquake of 9 February 1971, Calif. Div. of Mines and Geology, Bulletin 196, p. 53-70.
- Shaw, J.H., S.C. Hook, and J. Suppe, 1994, Structural trend analysis by axial surface mapping, AAPG Bulletin, v. 78, p. 700-721.
- Shaw, J.H., and J. Suppe, 1994, Active faulting and growth folding in the eastern Santa Barbara Channel, California, Geol. Society of America, Bulletin, v. 106, p. 607-626.
- U.S. ten Brink, R.M. Drury, G.K. Miller, T. Brocher, and D. Okaya, 1996, Los Angeles Region Seismic Experiment (LARSE), California off-shore Seismic Refraction data, USGS Open-File Report 96-27.
- Winterer, E.L., and D.L. Durham, 1958, Geologic map of a part of the Ventura Basin Los Angeles County, California, U.S. Geological Survey, Oil and Gas Investigations Map OM 196, scale 1:24,000.
- Wright, T., 1991, Structural geology and tectonic evolution of the Los Angeles basin, California, in K.T. Biddle, ed., Active margin basins: AAPG Memoir 52, p. 35-134.
- Yerkes, R.F., T.H. McCulloh, J.E. Schoellhamer, and J.G. Vedder, 1965, Geology of the Los Angeles basin California--an Introduction, U.S. Geological Survey, Prof. Paper 420-A, 57 pp., 4 plates.

#### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TABLE 1:

BHC - Borehole Compensated Sonic Log

CNFD - Compensated Neutron Formation Density\*

CFD gg - Compensated Formation Density (gamma-gamma)\*

CNF (ds) - Compensated Neutron Formation Density (Dual Spaced)\*

Cal. - Caliper

D.F. - Drilling floor

G.L. - Ground level

K.B. - Kelly Bushing

SP - Spontaneous Potential

GR - Gamma Ray

T3R3R - Sonic tool spacing (in feet) between transmitter (T) and receivers (R)

\*All density logging tools employ the backscattered gamma-ray technique, commonly called "gamma-gamma". The different names used here are either from different vendors or from different generations (having different trademark names).

8	_	$\overline{}$			Q.										_
Other tool	į		g,	Sal., SP	Cal., GR, SP	Sal., GR	æ.	g,	al., SP						
ensity tool			Scintillometer SP				CFD gg (							Scintillometer	Scintillometer
Sonic tool	Datum (ft) (m) year		T3R3R S	HC T3R2R	BHC T3R2R C	오	HC T3R2R C	3R3R	BHC T3R2R					S	U.
Completion	year	· ·					İ		1968 E		1977	1978	1970	1963	1063
Elev.	Ê			108	88	249	19	8	Ξ		279	280	242	230	207
Elev.	£			353.9	290	818	83	112	35 11		914	917	795	754	670
Elev.	Datum	<del>-  -</del>	D.F.	G.L.	G.L.	G.L.	G.	D.F.	G.L.		G.L.	G.L.	G.L.	G.L.	-
Fleld	1		Azusa	Temple City	El Monte	Whittier	La Mirada		Midway City		Pacoima	Pacoima	San Fernando	1 W 15 Van Nuys	Van Nine
S			8	6	21	56	27	50	5	_	r,	2	16	15	ŗ
œ'			3	≥	<b>≥</b>	<b>≥</b>	≥	≥	<b>≥</b>	_	≥	3	N 2 W	≥	3
-			z	S	S T	S	S	S	S		z	z	z	z	z
-	_	<del></del>	+	15	-	2	က	4	r.	-	16	16	25	၉	14
Vertical	ŏ	Devlated?	Vertical	Deviated	Vertical	~Vertical	Deviated	Deviated	Deviated		Deviated	Deviated 16 N 2 W 1	Deviated	Deviated	Vartical
Depth	Ξ		2280	2651	3714	4333	3506	3119	3271		3118	2738	2233	1545	1166
Depth	E		7479	8695	12182	14213	11500	10229	10730			8981			
Longitude		Devlated?	-117.93741	-118.04545	-118.02845	-117.99847	-118.01779	-117.95458	-117.98273		-118.4538	-118.4538	-118.51007	05974 34.20401 -118.44614	-118 42516
Latitude			34.12726	34.10205	34.07421	33.97355	33.88087	33.81581	33.74134		34.2558	34.2558	21018 34.22295 -11	34.20401	34 17578
₽			5965	21092	5964	23652	20435	1165	20119				21018	05974	05060
No. Operator			1 Standard Oil Co. of Calif. 5962 34.12726 -117.93741	1 Standard Oil Co. of Calif.	1 Standard Oil Co. of Calif.	304 Chevron USA Inc.	1 Standard Oil Co. of Amer	1 Standard Oil Co. of Calif.	1 Standard Oil Co. of Calif.		1 Chevron USA Inc.	2 Chevron USA Inc.	1 Chevron USA Inc.	1 Chevron USA Inc.	1 Chevron LSA Inc
		+	(r)	ē		ń						_		_	L
Leasename			Consol. Rock Products	Live Oak Park Corehole	Femis	Murphy Whittier	Northam Station Core	Kellogg	Hazard		Burnet Core Hole	Burnet Core Hole	Frieda J Clark	Leadwell	Hazaltina Core Hole

Table 2. Stratigraphy in oil test wells from Los Angeles Basin\*.

Well Name	Depth (feet)	Depth (m)	Depth (ft)	Depth (m)
Cons. Rock Prod. No. 1	-			
Colls. Rock Flod. No. 1	Original hole	Original hole	Redrill	Redrill
Non-marine	•		<del></del>	
Top/Marine	3110	948.2	2950	899.4
Within U. Mohnian	3300	1006.1	3280	1000.0
1st Mid Mohnian Soquel/La Vida	3550 5100	1082.3 1554.9	3500 5280	1067.1 1609.8
Within L. Mohnian	5200	1585.4	3200	1007.0
est. Top/Luisian	5540	1689.0	5480	1670.7
Top/Non-marines	7020	2140.2		
Top/Volcanics	7060	2152.4		
Live Oak Park CH No. 1				
ETVO GURTUIR GITTO. 1	<u>Deviated</u>	<u>Deviated</u>	<u>Vertical</u>	<u>Vertical</u>
Base of freshwater sands	4089	1246.6	3809	1161.3
Top/marine Pleistocene	4180	1274.4	3889	1185.7
Top/marine Pliocene	4480	1365.9	4153	1266.2
Top/Mohnian	4700	1432.9	4309	1313.7
Top/Mid. Mohnian	4860 6000	1481.7 1829.3	4424 5387	1348.8 1642.4
Top/L. Mohnian Top/Luisian	6280	1914.6	5619	1713.1
Top bsmt gneiss	8560	2609.8	7515	2291.2
Ferris No. 1				
1st Marine	5970	1820.1		
Top Mohnian	6385	1946.6		
Top Middle Mohnian	7510	2289.6		
1st Lower Mohnian	10715	3266.8		
Top Luisian	11400	3475.6		
Top granitoid bsmt	12073	3680.8		
Murphy-Whittier No. 304				
	<u>Deviated</u>	<u>Deviated</u>	<u>Vertical</u>	<u>Vertical</u>
in Middle Repetto	888	270.7	2020	(15.0
Top/Lower Repetto	2220 3120	676.8 951.2	2020	615.9 950.9
Top/Miocene Top/Mohnian	4020	1225.6	3119 4013	1223.5
Fault	5580	1701.2	5536	1687.8
undiff. Mohnian	6000	1829.3	5947	1813.1
Fault	8840	2695.1	8773	2674.7
Lower Mohnian	11520	3512.2	11382	3470.1
Topango	12557	3828.4	12410	3783.5
Fault	13030	3972.6	12869	3923.5
Sespe	14092	4296.3	13885	4233.2
Northam Station No. 1				
1st Marine Pleist.	880	268.3		

1st U. Pico 1st M. Pico 1st L. Pico Top Repetto Top Mid Repetto Top Lower Repetto Top Topanga	2440 3280 6840 7760 9490 11015 11180	743.9 1000.0 2085.4 2365.9 2893.3 3358.2 3408.5		
Kellogg No. 1	Original hole	Original hole	Redrill	Redrill
Top/Pico Top/Pico	3338 3410	1017.7 1039.6	1001111	<u> </u>
within M. Pico/approx. Top Repetto	3110	1037.0	7500 8750	2286.6 2667.7
within Repetto	8200 9450	2500.0 2881.1	10325	2007.7
Top Miocene, highest non-marine	9430	2001.1		
Vaqueros on mega/ probable Sespe			11025 11244	3361.3 3428.0
prob. mid-Miocene	9700	2957.3		
Hazard No. 1	<u>Vertical</u>	<u>Vertical</u>		
1st Marine Pleist.	265	80.8		
1st U. Pico	1520	463.4		
1st M. Pico 1st L. Pico	2640 5960	804.9 1817.1		
Top Repetto	6560	2000.0		
Top Mid Repetto	7630	2326.2		
Top Lower Repetto	8550	2606.7		
Top Miocene	9040	2756.1		
Top Mohnian	9240	2817.1		
Top Nodular shale	9290	2832.3		
Base Nod. Shale/Top Topanga	9768	2978.0		
Burnett Core Hole #1	<b>5</b> 0. 1 . 1	<b>.</b>		
Ton Sunskins Danch	<u>Deviated</u> 1090	<u>Deviated</u> 332.3		
Top Sunshine Ranch Top Pico (Fernando)	3150	960.4		
Top Towsley (U. Mohn.)	4570	1393.3		
Top Modelo	5920	1804.9		
Top Topanga	9090	2771.3		
Burnett Core Hole #2	Deviated	Davieted		
Top Sunshine Ranch	1090	<u>Deviated</u> 332.3		
Top Pico (Fernando)	3330	1015.2		
Top Towsley (U. Mohn.)	4880	1487.8		
Top Modelo	6330	1929.9		
Frieda J. Clark C.H. #1	<b>D</b> 1 1 1	<b>5</b> 0		
Ton Sunchine Donah	<u>Deviated</u> 1310	<u>Deviated</u> 399.4		
Top Sunshine Ranch	1310	<i>37</i> 7. <del>4</del>		

Top Pico (Fernando)	2650	807.9
Top Towsley (U. Mohn.)	3650	1112.8
Top Modelo	4650	1417.7
Middle Mohnian	6955	2120.4
Top Topanga	7080	2158.5
Top Hollycrest Conglom.	7200	2195.1
Leadwell #1		
	<b>Deviated</b>	<b>Deviated</b>
Top Sunshine Ranch	1010	307.9
Top Pico (Fernando)	2460	750.0
Top Towsley (U. Mohn.)	3980	1213.4
Top Modelo	4460	1359.8
Top of quartzdiorite bsmt.	4840	1475.6
Hazeltine Core Hole #1		
	<u>Vertical</u>	<u>Vertical</u>
Top Sunshine Ranch	700	213.4
Top Pico (Fernando)	970	295.7
Top Towsley (U. Mohn.)	1990	606.7
Top Modelo	2360	719.5
Top Topanga	3270	997.0
Top of granitic basement	3780	1152.4

<sup>\*</sup>Formation picks are from a combination of micro- and macropaleontology, correlations of electric logs, and radiometric dating of ash fall deposits.

Table 3. Regression of sonic velocities in oil test wells from the San Gabriel Valley.

Well	Regression Vp in freshwater sands (km/s)**	R <sup>2</sup>	Depth Interval (km)	Regression Vp below freshwater sands (km/s)**	R <sup>2</sup>	Depth Interval (km)
Cons. Rock Prod. #1	2.43 + 0.57 Z	0.156	0 - 0.900	-	_	-
Live Oak Park Corehole #1	1.84 + 1.15 Z	0.628	0 - 1.268	1.29 + 0.83 Z	0.507	1.27-2.65
Ferris #1	2.00 + 0.99 Z	0.465	0 - 1.750	1.69 + 0.74 Z	0.377	1.75-3.71

<sup>\*\*</sup> Z = depth in well in km.

Table 4. Regression of sonic velocities in oil test wells from Los Angeles Basin.

Well	Regression Vp in Pico and Repetto Fms. (km/s)**	R <sup>2</sup>	Depth Interval (km)
Murphy Whittier #304	2.40 + 0.63 Z	0.731	Entire Log
"	2.35 + 0.64 Z	0.431	0 - 1.850
Northam Station Corehole #1	1.97 + 0.63 Z	0.671	Entire Log
Kellogg #1	1.83 + 0.70 Z	0.805	Entire Log
"	1.86 + 0.65 Z	0.716	0 - 2.191
Hazard #1	1.85 + 0.59 Z	0.614	Entire Log

<sup>\*\*</sup> Z = depth in well in km.

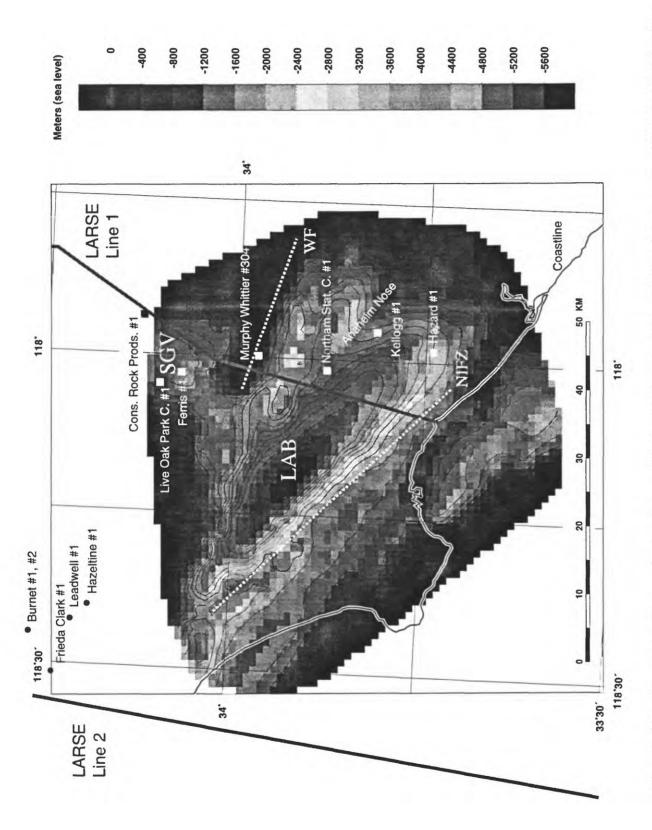
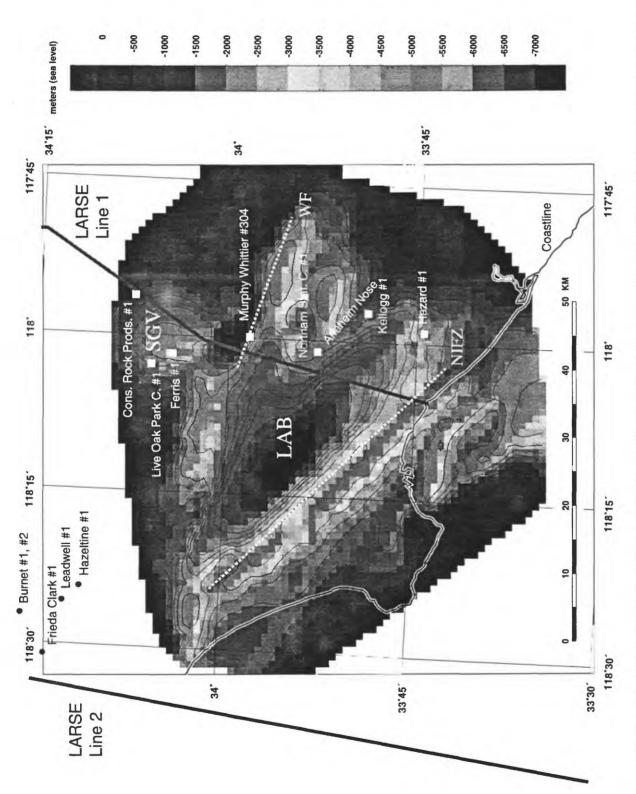


Figure 1. Map of the Los Angeles area showing the base of the Repetto Formation (circa 4.5 Ma) relative to sea level [Wright, 1991], locations of the sonic well logs analyzed here (squares and circles), LARSE Lines 1 and 2, the Los Angeles basin (LAB), the San Gabriel valley (SGV), the Newport-Inglewood fault zone (NIFZ), the Whittier fault (WF), and the coastline.



of the sonic well logs analyzed here (squares and circles), LARSE Lines 1 and 2, the Los Angeles basin (LAB), the San Gabriel valley (SGV), Figure 2. Map of the Los Angeles area showing the base of the Mohnian Stage (circa 14 Ma) relative to sea level [Wright, 1991], locations the Newport-Inglewood fault zone (NIFZ), the Whittier fault (WF), and the coastline.

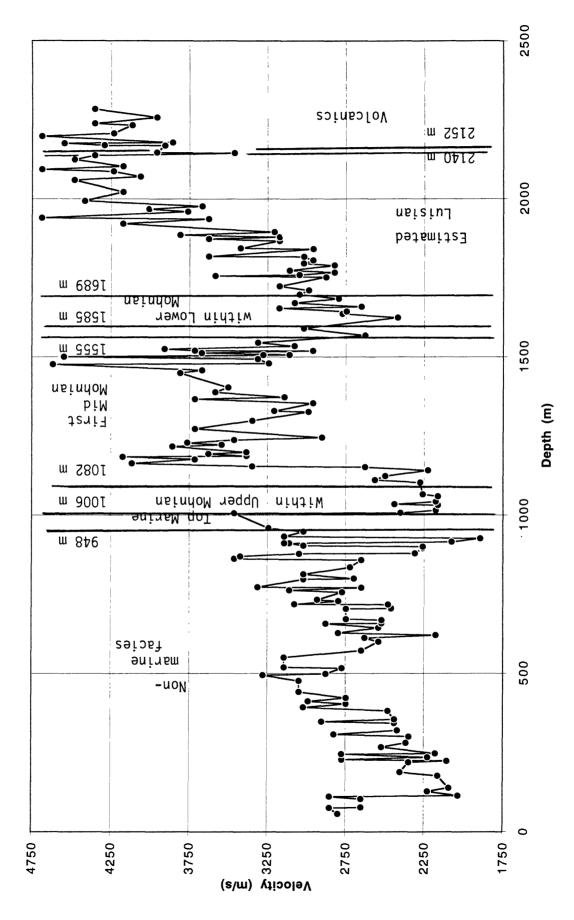
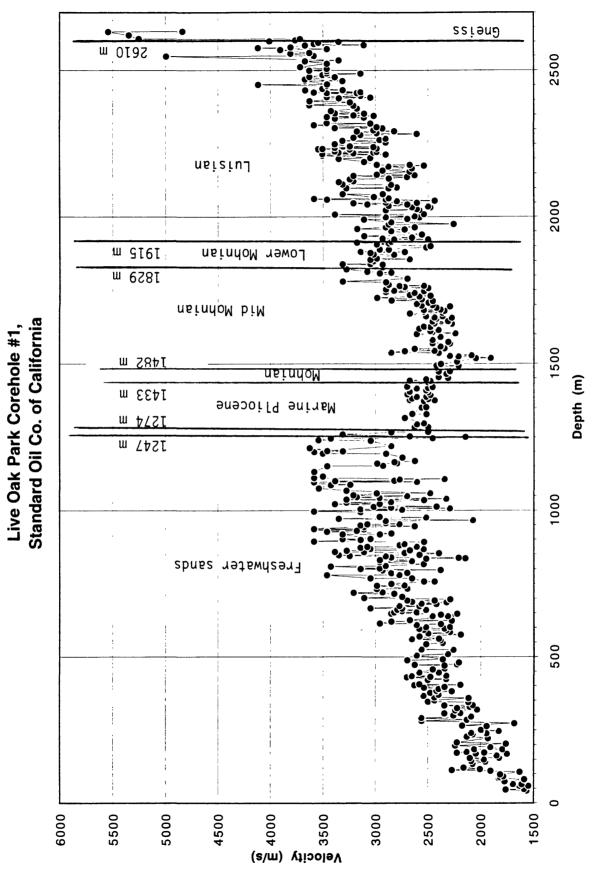


Figure 3.



Figure

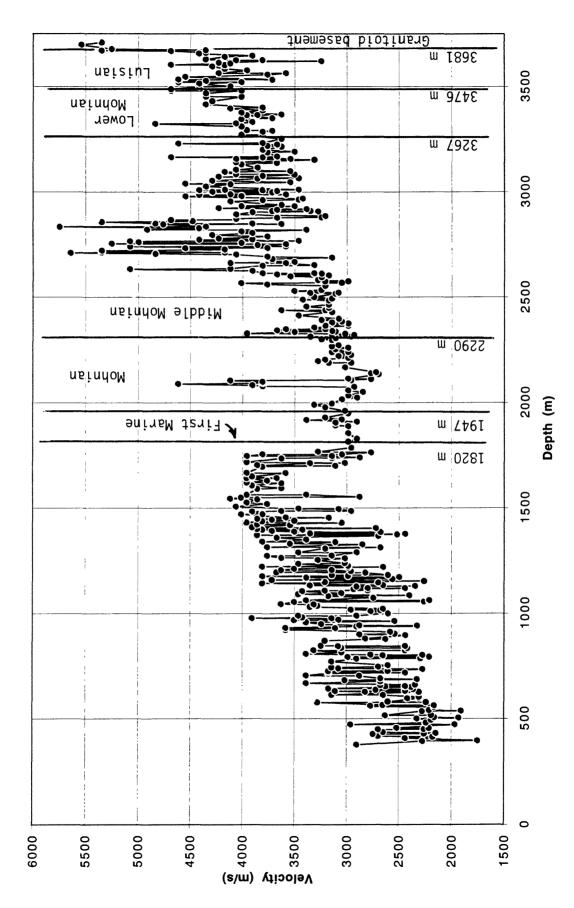


Figure 5.

igure 6.

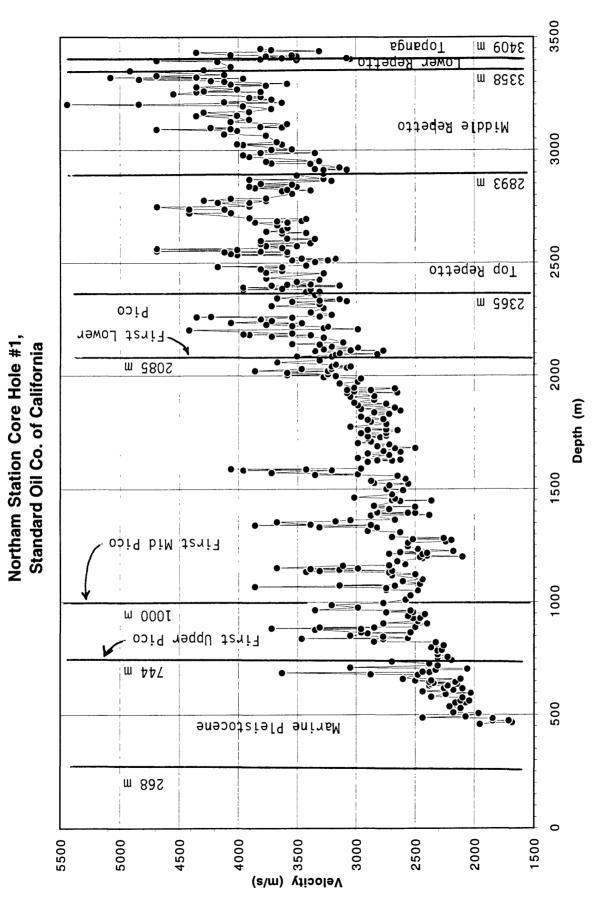


Figure 7

Kellogg #1, Standard Oil Co. of California

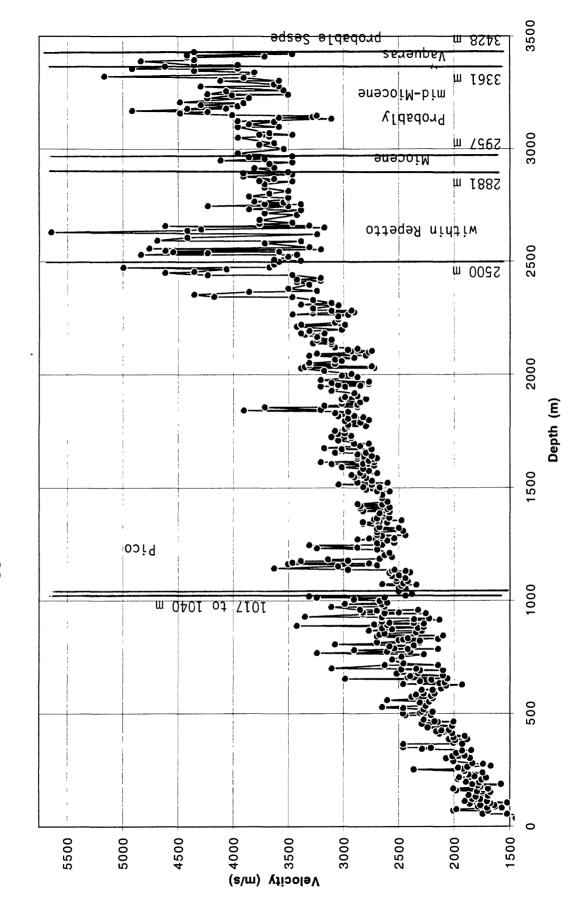


Figure 8

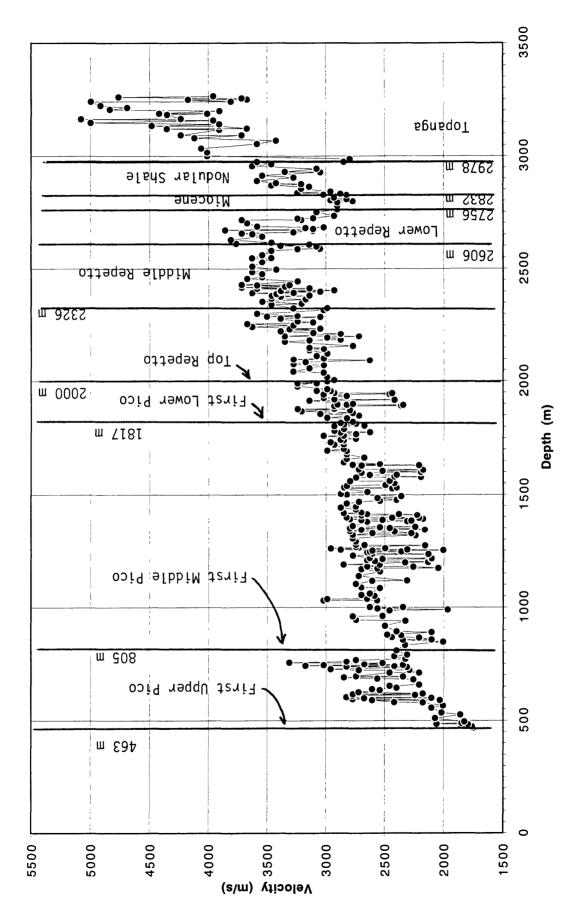


Figure 9.

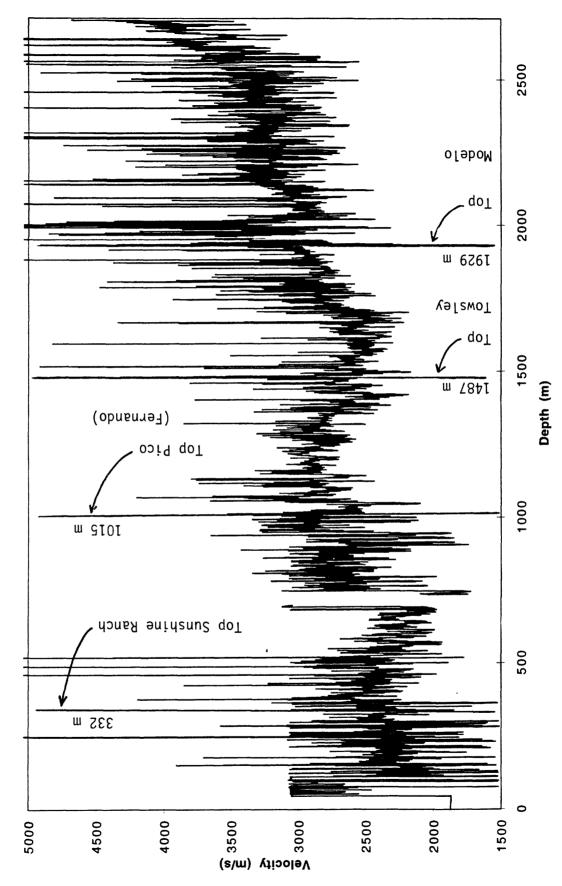


Figure 10.

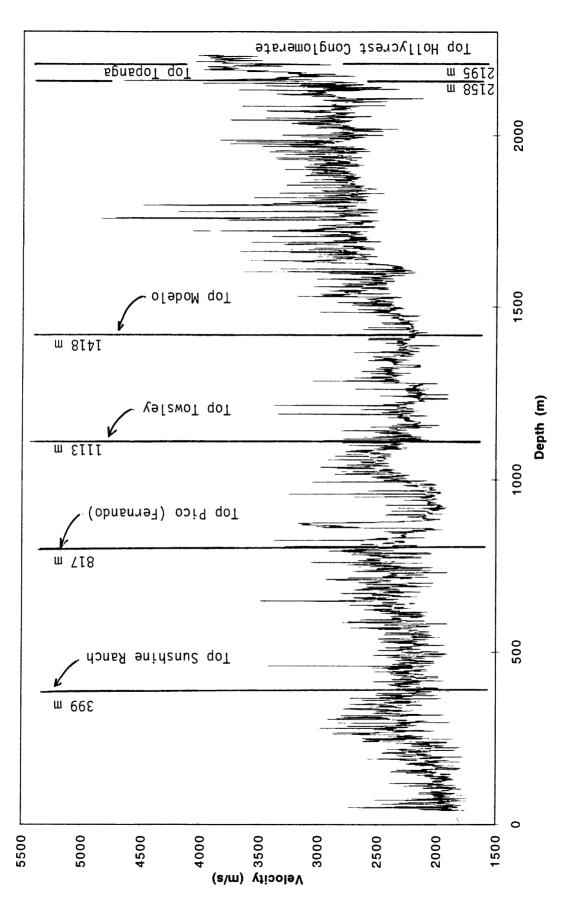


Figure 12.

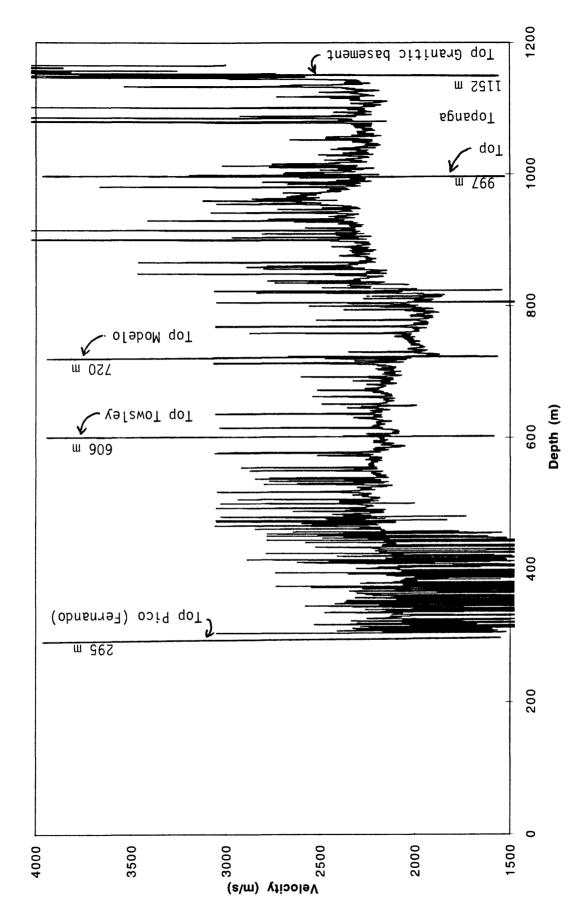


Figure 13

-igure 14

4500 ədsəç 4233 m 4000 Topanga 3784 m Lower Puente 3500 3470 m 3000 Puente 2500 2000 1932 m 1500 1000 500 Density (g/cc) 1.90 2.10 2.90 2.70

Murphy Whittier #304, Chevron USA, Inc.

Figure 15.

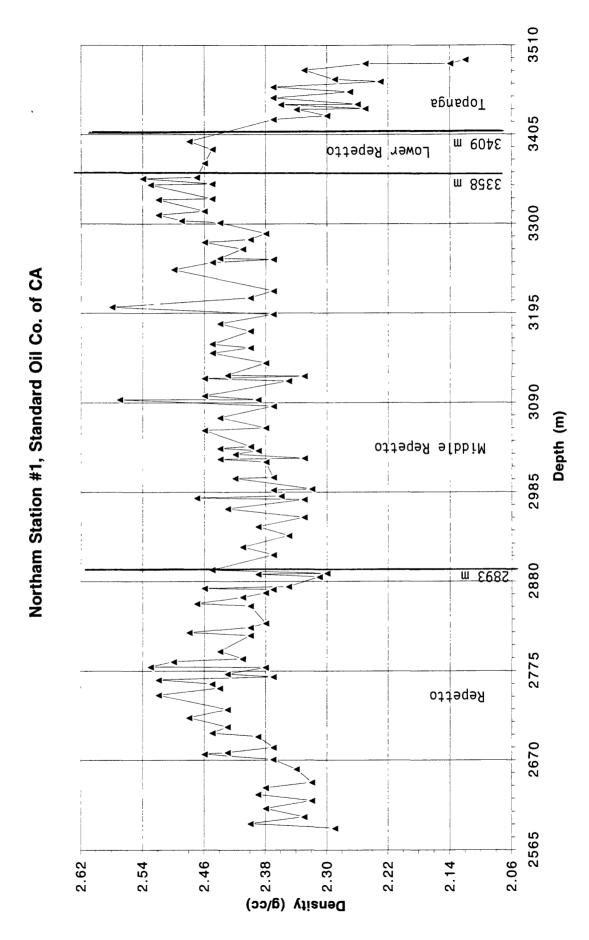


Figure 16.

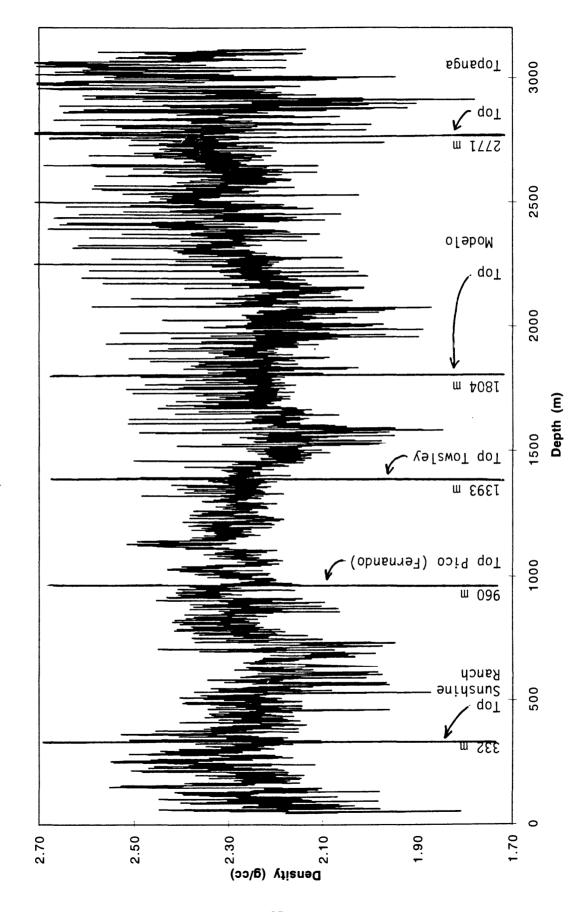


Figure 17.

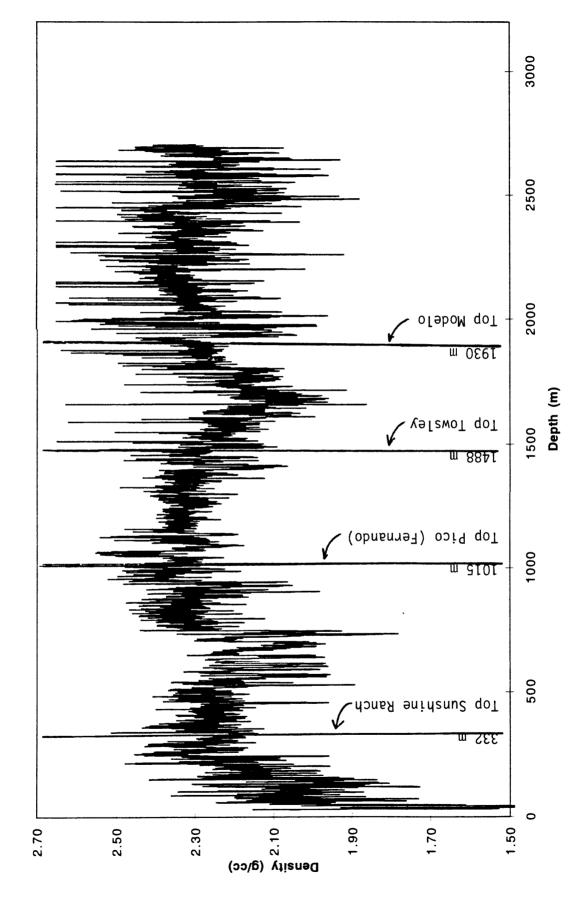


Figure 18.

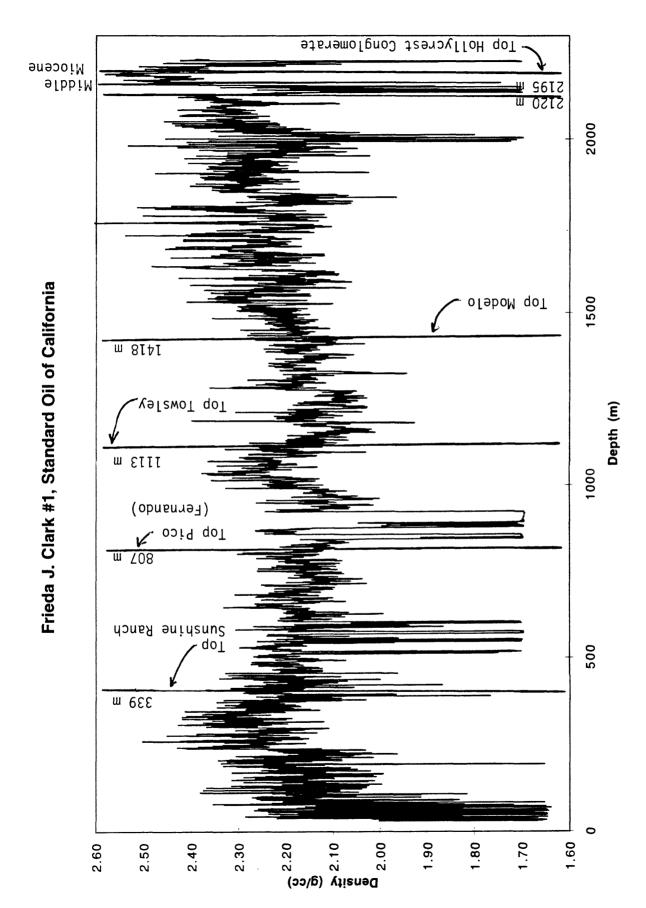


Figure 19.

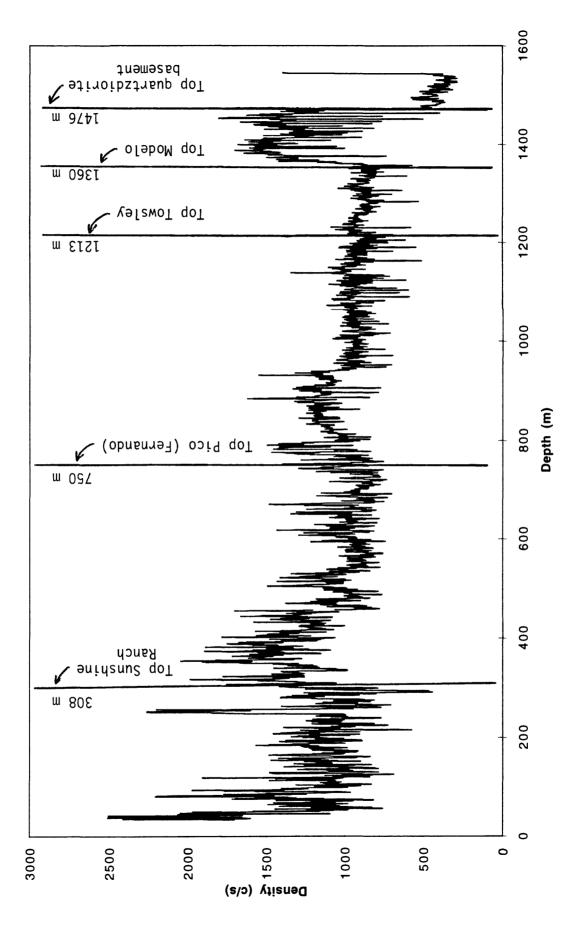


Figure 20.

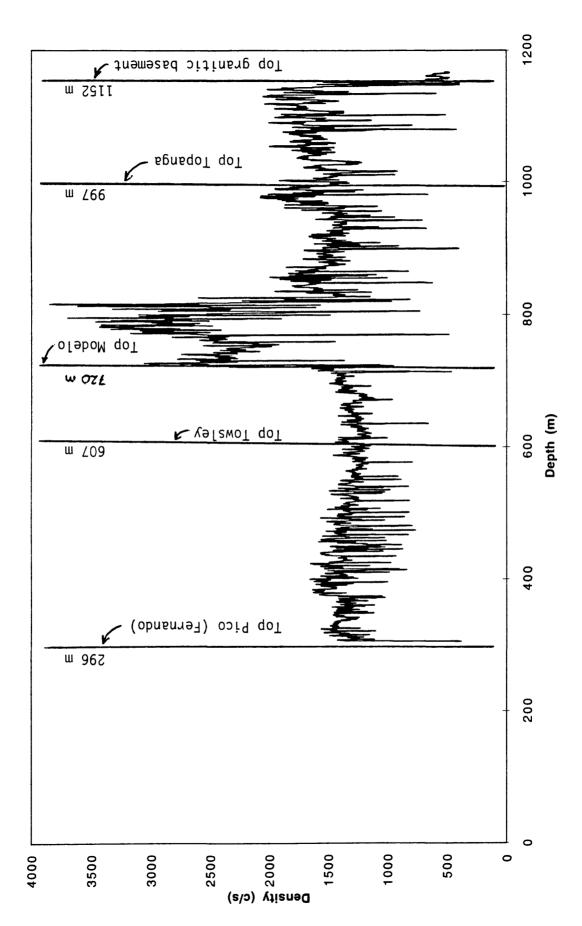


Figure 21

0

1

2

Burnett Frida Hazel-Burnett Lead-#18#2 #2 Clark tine #1 well 0 LEADWELL HAZEL, 1 IEDA, E B Ш  $\leq S \leq C$  $\Sigma$  +  $\rightarrow \Box \rightarrow$ P.E. R.E. S.E. S.E. 2 > S N N N  $\Box$  $Z \vdash \Box$  $\omega\omega\omega\omega$  $\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma$ 6666 KSHOT KSHOT  $\subseteq$ Burnett Burnett Frieda Hazel-Leadwell **ш**и • #1 & #2 Clark #1 #2 tine N H N NN C N 42 SSB

Burnet

Consolidated Rock Products #1, Irwindale

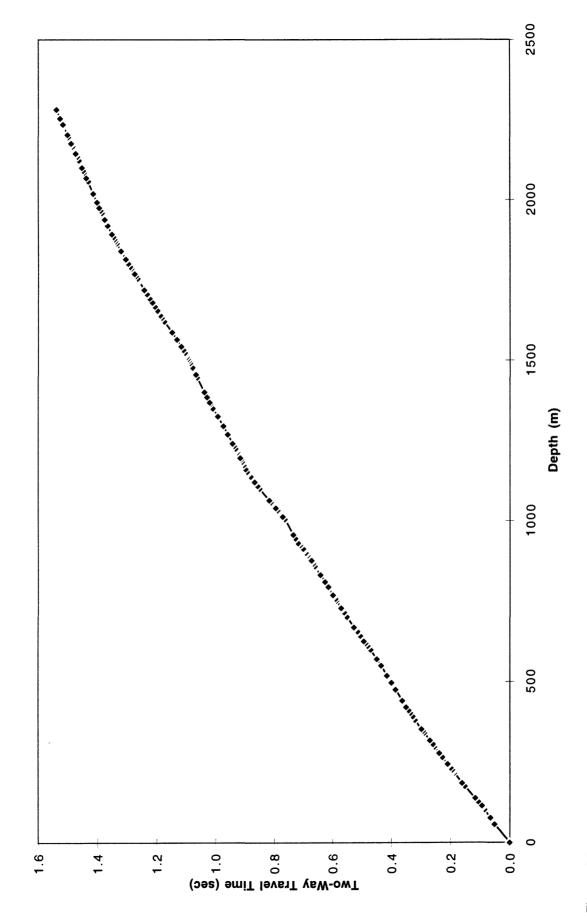


Figure 23.

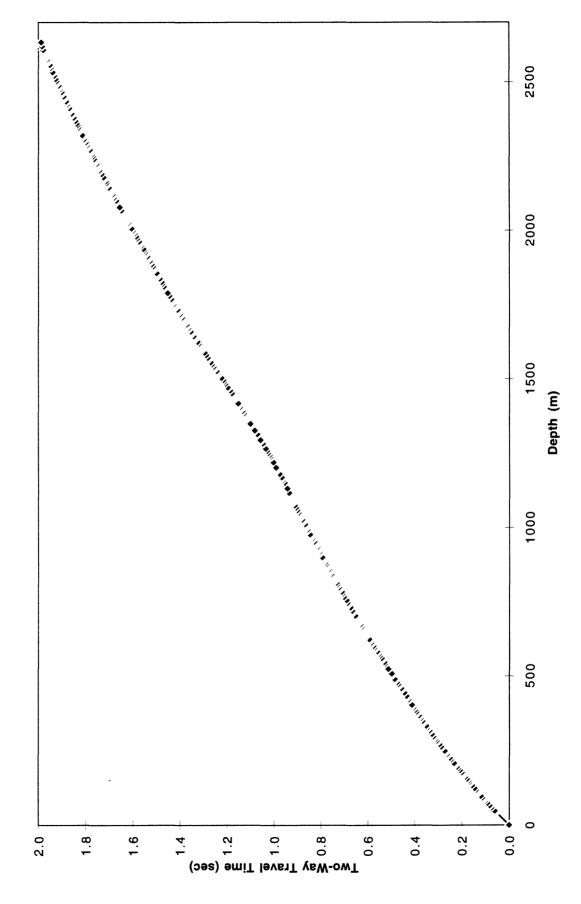


Figure 24.

Ferris #1, Standard Oil Co. of California

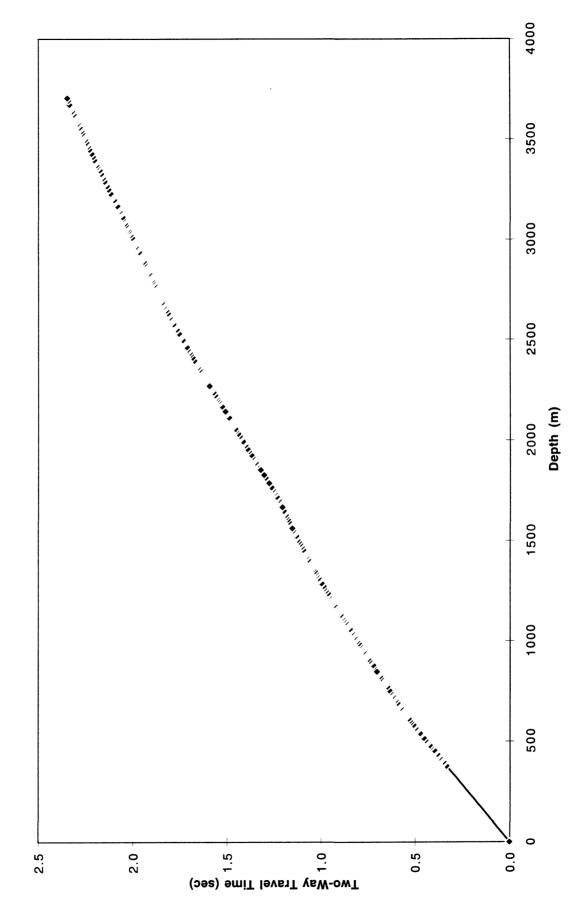


Figure 25.

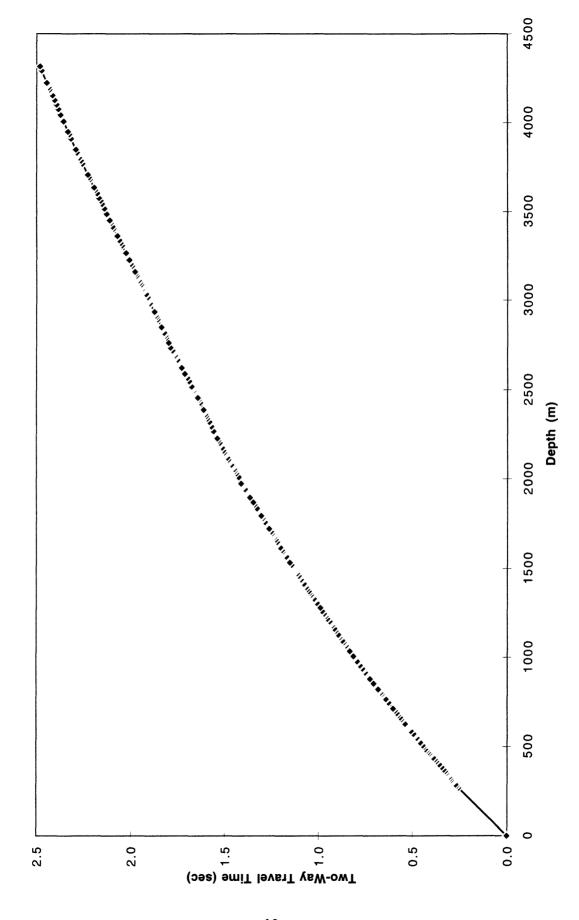


Figure 26.

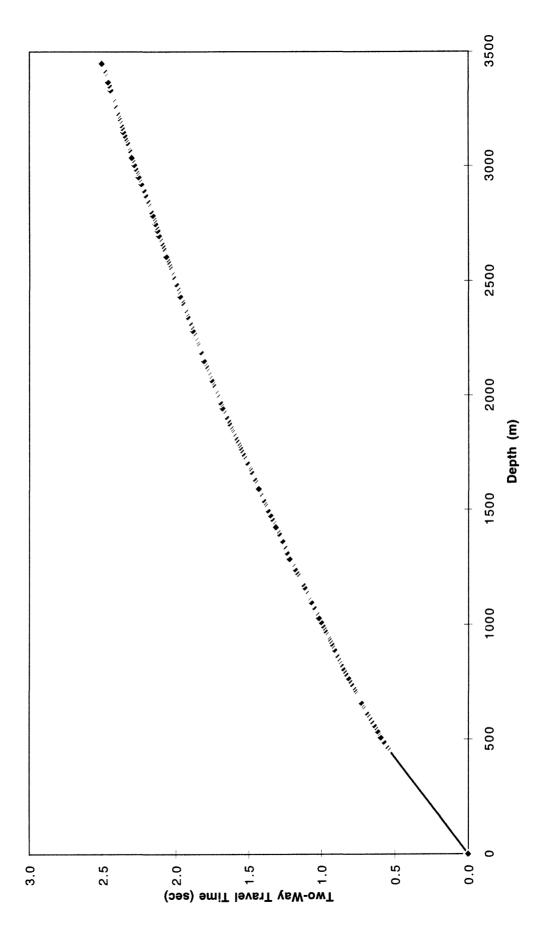


Figure 27.

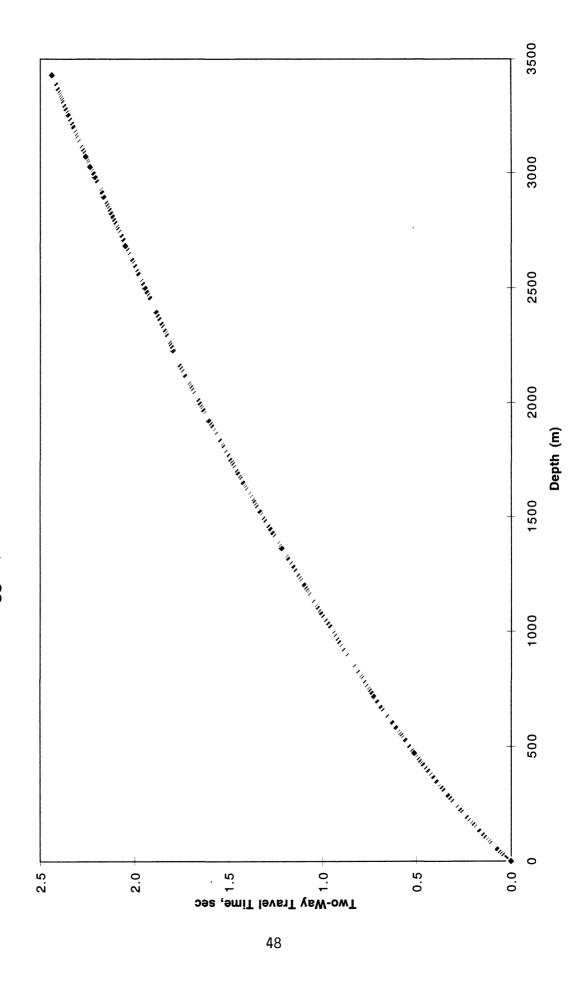


Figure 28.

Hazard #1, Standard Oil Co. of California

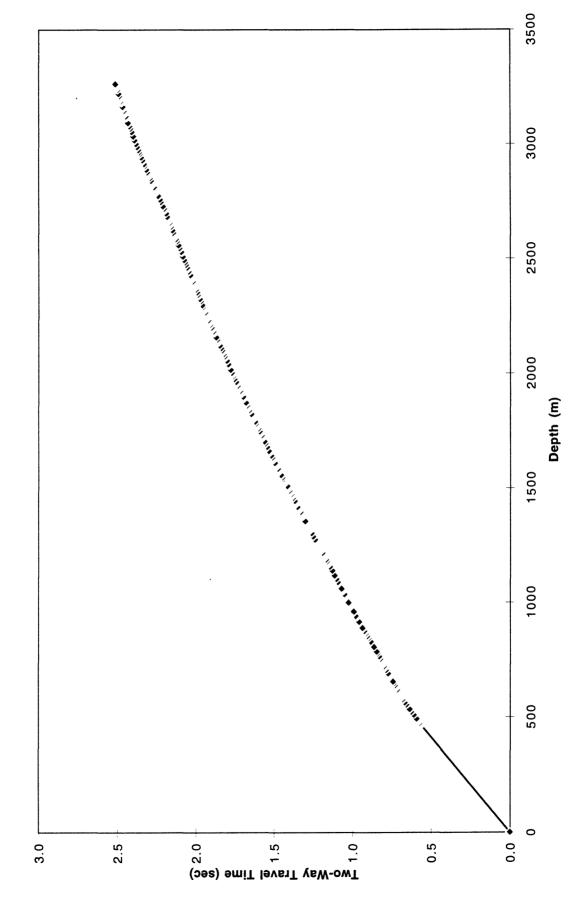


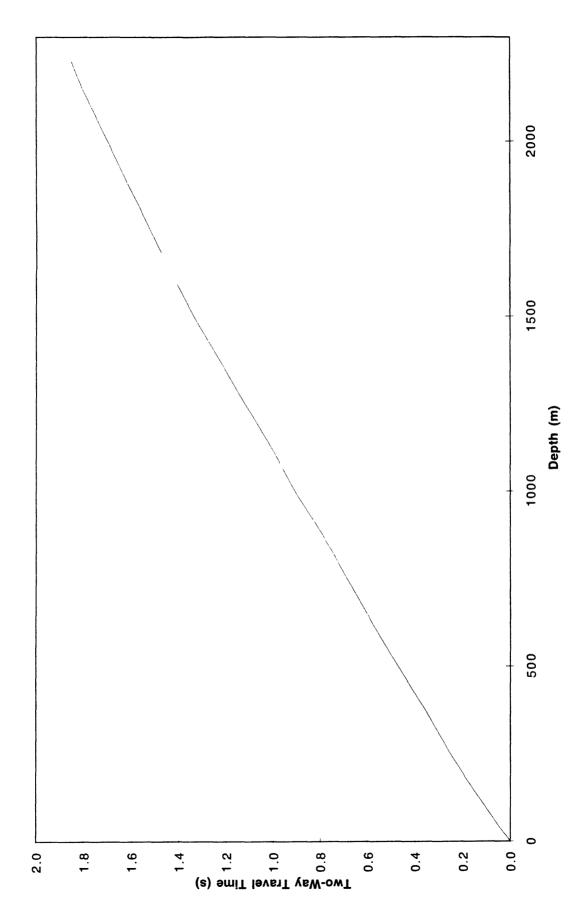
Figure 29.

3000 2500 2000 Depth (m) 1500 1000 200 0 0.0 2.0 1.8 1.6 0.4 0.2

Burnet #1 and #2, Chevron USA Inc.

Figure 30.

Frieda J. Clark #1, Standard Oil of California



-igure 31

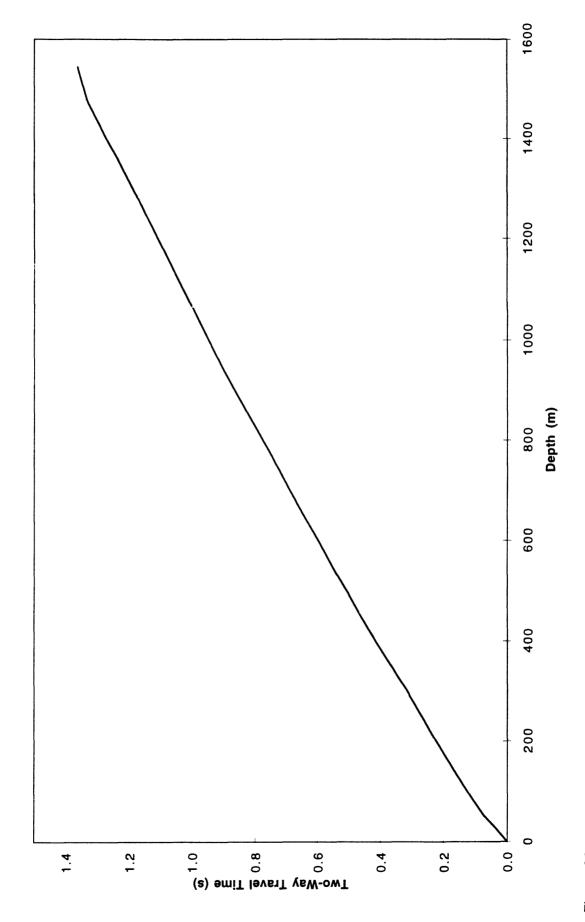


Figure 32.

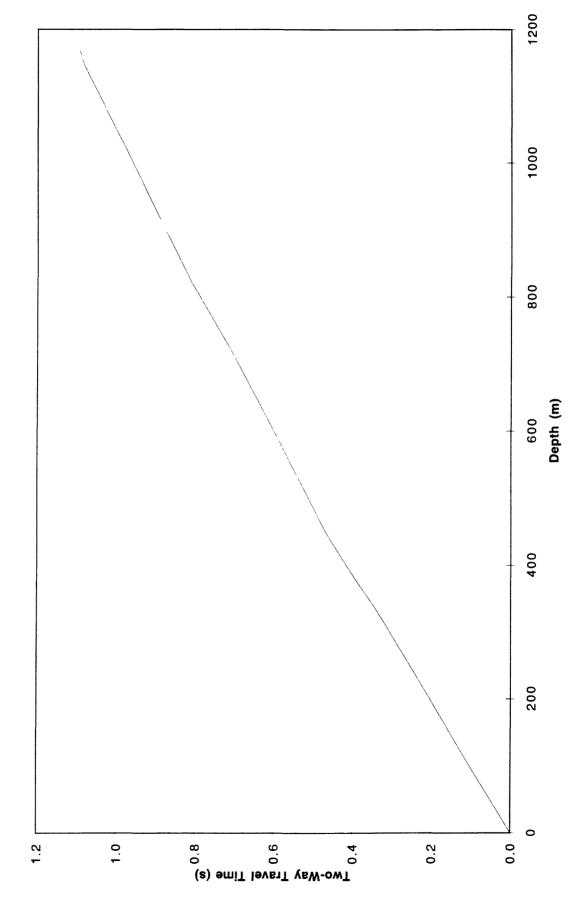


Figure 33.